

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 8, 2004

LR 14

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Mr. President and members, the amendment that I'm offering is basically the same as the undivided amendment that we previously have been considering. There is one word change in that amendment, and that word change is to change the number of casinos from five to two. And I have to tell you that we have done a lot of work to get to this particular point in time. As most of you know, we have gone around to everybody on this floor who indicated that they would be amenable to consideration of a number, and we talked to everybody, and then we went back and we tallied all the votes. And I have to tell you that those votes came in the one, two, three casino category. And at that point then we had to look at cloture, and how many of those at any of those levels would be there for cloture. And frankly, this is the number, two. And I think this body needs to be able to consider it. It would be possible to do it another way, I suppose. But this seems like the cleanest way, to just withdraw the whole thing and substitute the newly drawn amendment. So I would ask for your leave to do this. Generally, substitutions by the bill's author are usually okayed without any objection, and in this case there is an objection, so I would ask for your consideration of overriding that objection and voting for the motion to substitute AM2917. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the opening, and we'll now have debate on the substitution motion. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Senator Schimek just characterized this as a very small change with great impact. Therefore, I believe that it needs full and fair debate on its own face. But I would suggest to the body, given the interest of time, that we reject this notion and that we can move on to some other issues. If it comes down to the issues of voting and so many of these things that we've heard, I still believe that LR 14CA is nothing more than an attempt from Las Vegas casinos to remove hundreds of millions of dollars from the Nebraska economy. That does not come at the expense, in an exclusive manner, to the boats in Council Bluffs. I believe that it comes at the expense of retailers across Nebraska. The